

Invasion in Grenada: President Makes His Case

It Was a Rescue Mission, Reagan Says

By FRANCIS X. CLINES
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 — President Reagan said today that he had conducted a rescue mission, not an invasion of Grenada, and that no comparison was possible with the warfare waged in Afghanistan by the Soviet Union.

The President, speaking to reporters in the White House briefing room, smiled as he dismissed the United Nations General Assembly vote Wednesday that deplored armed intervention in Grenada. "It didn't upset my breakfast at all," he said.

He beamed as he announced that "our objectives have been achieved, and as soon as the logistics permit, American personnel will be leaving."

Mr. Reagan appeared in the briefing room nine days after first announcing the operation in which 18 Americans, 26 Grenadians and about 300 Cubans have been killed. In responding to questions, he dismissed the General Assembly condemnation of the Grenada invasion as no surprise, saying the majority of the nation "have not agreed with us on just about everything that's come before them where we're involved."

"You Shouldn't Either"

Asked about Nicaragua's assertion that the Administration might be planning an invasion there, the President said, "I haven't believed anything they've been saying since they got in charge, and you shouldn't either."

He was then asked whether the United States might have lost "moral high ground" by invading Grenada.

"Well, for heaven's sake," he responded, frowning and expressing exasperation with "anyone who would link Afghanistan with this operation."

He denounced the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, accusing the Russians of "every vicious form of warfare, including chemical warfare, the killing of women and children."

"Incidentally, I know your frequent use of the word 'invasion' he noted, referring to Grenada. "This was a rescue mission." While objecting to the word invasion, Mr. Reagan himself used that term on the morning the operation was announced.

He Praises U.S. Troops

When asked whether he would take similar military action in other countries, the President said he could not foresee the same combination arising of endangered Americans and concerned neighboring governments. "If all the questions were the same," he added, "I don't see why our reason would be any different, but I don't foresee any similar situation."

The President praised the 6,000 troops involved in the operation and hailed the dead and wounded as "heroes of freedom," saying they had put down a "potential threat to all the people of the Caribbean."

"After viewing the massive board of Soviet weapons found on that island, Grenadians achieved for us," the President said, then immediately corrected himself, "or averted in the years ahead."

Appointment of Rumsfeld

And now, on to the business at hand. I'm pleased to announce today the appointment of Donald Rumsfeld, as my special representative for the Middle East. I can't think of a better ethical in whom to entrust the coordination of our role in the Middle East peace process and in the Lebanon.

Don Rumsfeld has had a distinguished career in public service. He's got experience in wide areas of government and public policy, including military service as a Naval aviator, in the legislative branch, as a member of the United States Congress, and in the executive branch, where his many appointments included Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Cabinet and U.S. Secretary of Defense.

I am grateful that he's agreed to take on this special assignment and

The White House took care to denounce the General Assembly vote of 108 to 9 that included many of the United States' traditional allies in the majority. The state of affairs at the White House, Mr. Reagan said, "was not disturbed by the vote."

Mr. Speaker also read a statement contending that the vote was actually a comment on the state of affairs at the United Nations. "We find it sad," he said, "that the U.N. sees fit to deplore actions taken to 'save innocent lives and protect human rights, in full accord with the principles of the U.N. Charter.'"

Differences in Afghanistan

In pointing out the differences between the operations in Grenada and Afghanistan, Mr. Reagan contended that the Russians had installed their choice as head of state, "murdered" the American Ambassador and used tactics in fighting Afghan rebels that have led Russian soldiers to desert. "They've survived there after a long period of time," the President said. "I regret that I've been in this office."

The Grenada operation, he said, was the invitation of neighboring governments and involved the evacuation of American students. "It was a successful rescue," he said, adding that "the Grenadians that have been liberated are down there delighted with and giving every evidence of appreciation and gratitude to our men."



AT THE CUBAN EMBASSY: U.S. soldiers manning a position set up outside the Cuban Embassy compound in St. George's. In the background, at left, Cuban officials talked to reporters.

Mr. Speaker was again asked for some of the captured documents the Administration has said support the charge that a Soviet-Cuban bastion was in the works on Grenada. He replied

that the evidence would be convincing when and if the documents are released. Asked whether they might not be released, Mr. Speaker said that the docu-

ments were under review and that at least some would be released. "I assure you," he said, "that the documents ultimately released will be a 'damning' representation."

Transcript of the President's News Conference on Rumsfeld and Grenada

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 — Following is a transcript of President Reagan's news conference today, as recorded by the White House:

OPENING STATEMENT

Before this morning's announcement, I'd like to share some information that I received on the phone last night.

Secretary of Defense Casper W. Weinberger called to inform me that hostilities in Grenada have ended. That he has instructed our military commanders to begin withdrawing their forces within a few days.

What this means is that the situation is stable, no sniper fire or other form of military resistance is evident on the island. Our objectives have been achieved and so soon as the logistics permit, American personnel will be leaving.

I'd like to add that the members of the armed forces have conducted themselves in the finest tradition of the military. We can be proud of the courage and professionalism that we've seen from the people down there. The American students called them rescuers. The citizens of Grenada have hailed them as liberators. I think the whole lot of them deserve the respect and admiration of our country.

The operation was not without cost. Those who were killed, wounded or injured in this operation I believe are heroes of freedom. They not only res-

cued our own citizens, but they saved the people of Grenada from repression and laid aside a potential threat to all the people of the Caribbean.

After viewing the massive board of Soviet weapons found on that island, Grenadians achieved for us," the President said, then immediately corrected himself, "or averted in the years ahead."

Appointment of Rumsfeld

And now, on to the business at hand. I'm pleased to announce today the appointment of Donald Rumsfeld, as my special representative for the Middle East. I can't think of a better ethical in whom to entrust the coordination of our role in the Middle East peace process and in the Lebanon.

Don Rumsfeld has had a distinguished career in public service. He's got experience in wide areas of government and public policy, including military service as a Naval aviator, in the legislative branch, as a member of the United States Congress, and in the executive branch, where his many appointments included Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Cabinet and U.S. Secretary of Defense.

I am grateful that he's agreed to take on this special assignment and

that G.D. Searle & Company, where he serves as president and chief executive officer, has made it possible for him to lend his talents to his country for a while.

He'll be joining the team immediately, and in view of the serious job that he's undertaking, we're happy to have an individual of his stature on board so quickly.

Reagan Proposed of '83

Ambassador Richard Fairbanks, who is now in Geneva, has told me that he will continue his critical involvement in these issues, and I am grateful for his dedication. We intend to work and use the talents of our best minds to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

I announced in September 1982 a realistic set of principles which we consider the best chance for a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. No one's come up with a better proposal

since. I'm confident that progress in Lebanon will add momentum to the serious efforts that are going on to establish this broader peace.

We hope that the leaders of Lebanon who are now meeting in Geneva will put the problems of the past aside. They have it within their ability to move toward a national consensus. Progress in their talks could lead to the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and the establishment of a truly representative government.

We're proud as Americans of the part we're playing to bring peace to this troubled region. Now, Don Rumsfeld will be our point man in that effort. I've known Don over the years and I recognize the talent and vigor that he can bring to bear on these weighty problems. I hope all those who share our sincere desire for peace in the Middle East will work with our new representative.

So, Don, good luck, and our hearts are with you.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Invasion of Nicaragua

Q. Mr. President, Nicaragua says you intend to invade that country. Do you, sir?

A. Who says?

Q. Nicaragua believes, sir.

A. I haven't believed anything they've been saying since they got in charge, and you shouldn't either.

Use of Military

Q. Mr. President, does the success of Grenada, as you view it, prove that operation meant that you might be able to apply the military in similar situations elsewhere?

A. No, I can't foresee any situation that has exactly the same things that this one had. It had exactly what we

Analogy

Q. Mr. President, some people say that the U.S. has now lost a moral high ground, that there's no difference between what we did in Grenada and what the Soviets did in Afghanistan. What's your response to that?

A. Well, for heaven's sake, anyone

who would link Afghanistan to this operation — and incidentally, I know your frequent use of the word invasion; this was a rescue mission — but in Afghanistan, if you will recall, when the Soviets installed their choice of head of state for Afghanistan, and in the process in changing the forces there, an American Ambassador was murdered in Afghanistan, and then, against all the opposition of the Afghan people, they have used every vicious form of warfare including chemical warfare, the killing of women and children that has caused even some of their own men to desert because they will not carry out the orders to kill women and children, and they're still there, longer than I've been in this office.

As compared to what we did in answer, actually, to an appeal that first came from the Governor General of the island, who was in house arrest, or his fellow states there in the Caribbean who were appealing for rescue, and we helped in the rescue.

Granted that we contributed the bulk of the power, but because — only because the others were limited in their ability to do that. And this was a rescue mission.

It was a successful rescue mission, and people that have been rescued, and the Grenadians that have been liberated are down there delighted with and giving every evidence of appreciation and gratitude to our men down there.

Press Voices Criticism Of 'Off-the-Record War'

By JONATHAN FRIENDLY

The Government's decision to restrict news coverage in the first days of the invasion of Grenada has created a highly visible confrontation between the Reagan Administration and the press.

Some of the journalists who are concerned about the issue concede that the military success of the invasion may mean they are not likely to see the battle quickly, or ever. They also say that by making an issue of the restrictions, they have placed their credibility at risk with a public that neither trusts them nor always thinks of them as fair in their reporting about other governmental and political issues.

Decision Without Parallel

At the same time, however, many journalists say the issue is too important to let pass. They say they hope that, as the immediate flush of victory wears off and more details of the invasion emerge, more of the public will share their concern about what they dubbed "an off-the-record war." And they note that even some of those in the press who are the Administration's traditional supporters have voiced concern about the restrictions.

Criticism of the invasion by the press began on the afternoon of the move,

when it became clear that the Pentagon was not planning to allow reporters or photographers to join the troops who had already landed on Grenada. CBS News, for example, sent a telegram to Defense Secretary Casper W. Weinberger protesting the decision, which it called unprecedented.

The press argument was that the public has an absolute need for information from impartial sources about a military action. The public, many journalists said, would not believe accounts either from Pentagon briefings or from ham radio operators and Radio Havana broadcasts, the only sources the press had on the invasion for two days.

"The result of your Administration's new management is that the American people have received a steady, unhealthy diet of rumors that conjure up images undoubtedly less favorable to the United States Government than the reality," the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, wrote in a recent letter to President Reagan.

Secretary Weinberger said that including correspondents might have jeopardized the success of the invasion in its initial hours, and that after his troops could not guarantee correspondents' safety. Many journalists said they rejected both explanations, challenging the Administration to cite a single instance in which the press had endangered lives by violating a military embargo and noting that the military has never been asked to protect war correspondents.

A Threshold Was Crossed

Military censorship to protect troops is respectable, journalists said. But in Grenada, the threshold crossed was very early on, from military censorship to political censorship. Edward M. Joyce, the president of the Society of Professional Journalists, told a Congressional hearing Wednesday.

Another witness at the hearing, John Chancellor of NBC News, said it was difficult to encourage public concern about censorship when the military operation was being reported so much of the information about the actual conduct of the fighting was beginning to emerge anyway. He said his



UNEXPLODED BOMB: U.S. Army explosives expert checking live American shell to identify its make and fuse type at battle site in Grenada.

mail in response to broadcasts criticizing the President for excluding the press had been running 10-to-one against the NBC News position.

That shows that "the media needs to listen to the public on some of these issues," said one congressional member, Representative Carlos J. Moorhead, Republican of California.

Other Clashes With Press

Some journalists say Grenada restrictions have poisoned what they felt was a good working relationship that the press had with the President's aides. Laurence I. Barrett, a White House correspondent for Time magazine, said that until a week ago his report that the President had succeeded in "restoring ci-

Grenada invasion "he's blown whatever he's managed to recover."

The President has clashed with the press on a few previous occasions. In April 1982, for example, he said "downbeat" stories about laid-off workers in "South Coast" were contributing to an atmosphere of gloom and thus impeding economic recovery.

In August of this year, the White House expressed unhappiness with articles that it said seemed to emphasize the fact that the President of Mexico, Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, had criticized Mr. Reagan for using "shows of force" to deal with international problems. In a speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars a few days after his meeting with the Mexican leader, Mr.

"type and hoopla" in its coverage of Central America.

Those disagreements do not seem to have produced any lasting hostility; the press, in general, treated those incidents as part of the normal political give-and-take. Indeed, on the day the invasion started, President Reagan sent a telegram of good wishes to the Foreign Press Association in New York, hailing the association's 55th anniversary and saying:

"It is our conviction that accurate, objective information is necessary to the preservation of democracy and freedom. What there are those in the world who would have the press be an instrument of government policy in a new international order, you and your

port in working against restrictions on the right of journalists to report events and information as they see fit, free of authoritarian restrictions and official ideological guidelines."

Now many journalists, including some who have strongly supported the Administration, see the Administration as being on a deliberate collision course with the press.

In an essay in Time magazine this week, Henry A. Grunwald, the editor-in-chief, wrote, "The unprecedented exclusion of the American press from that operation requires no debate; clearly it was a bad mistake, an outrage to press freedom and an ominous symptom of a tendency in the Reagan Administration to try to control the

A Lawyer Is Elected to Lead Foreign Policy Association

Archibald E. Albright Jr., a lawyer and investment banker, was elected yesterday as president and chief executive officer of the Foreign Policy Association.

Mr. Albright was chosen by the 88-year-old association's board of directors to succeed William E. Schaufele Jr., effective today. Mr. Albright lives in New York City.

Mr. Albright, who is a visiting member of the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University, is a former director of the Council on Foreign Relations and previously served as vice chairman of the association and as a member of its executive committee.